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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 69, ISSUE NO. 1 | SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES-Mike Egigian and his fellow construction workers are digging trenches in Monarch Square for Valley College's new lighting system.

Budget Deadlock Delays Student Aid

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

Students expecting the Cal Grant have received letters in the mail informing them that their checks are delayed until the state budget is accepted California legislators.

According to Barbara Ralston, associate dean of Financial Aid, "No Cal Grants are being funded until the budget is approved by the legislature and signed by Gov. [Arnold] Schwarzenegger." This could effect up to 700 Valley College students, according to last year's total number of recipients.

Financial Aid awardees are not the only ones immediately affected as the school continues to operate without a current state budget. The Los Angeles Community College District has been relying on its reserve funds since July 1 to pay the district's bills, including its employees' wages.

Jeanette Gordon, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for the Los Angeles Community College District, estimates that by Sept. 15, the district will be forced to borrow funds from within the district to continue running. By Oct. 1, the district would have to finance money to pay October's payroll.

On Aug. 31, the State of California passed the 62-day record for going without a State Budget: under former Gov. Gray Davis, the state legislature approved the 2002 budget on that date.

In his 2008-2009 California fiscal budget, released on Jan. 10, Schwarzenegger, proposed 10 percent cuts towards all state funded facilities. The proposed cuts were to help eliminate the current state deceit of $3.3 billion, according to the Governor's Message to the Senate and Assembly of the Legislature of California.

After his initial budget did not pass, Schwarzenegger created a revised budget with steeper cuts, which was also rejected. On Aug. 18, the Democratic Party proposed a budget that focused on preventing California from borrowing money

see *Budget* page 7

Valley Requests, Pardon our Mess

BY SHARON HARDWICK
STAFF WRITER

Despite the school's best efforts to ease the chaos of the first week of the semester and show off all the progress made over the summer, the big picture of a new and improved Valley College was buried as frustration rose over in-your-face construction that continues on campus.

"Construction projects hurt campuses," admitted Rinaldo Veseliza, project director of construction with URS management services. "So, the idea was to put enough services out there to ease the transition."

These services included traffic guards at Valley's parking lot entrances and a shuttle service between parking lots E, F, G, Campus South, Center and North. Yet, with only a handful of black-and-white signs posted randomly around campus, many students remain unaware of the shuttle offering that ends Sept. 18.

The level of frustration among the study body was not lost on school administration, either.

"No construction goes seamlessly," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administration. "Every effort is made to make this process painless, but nothing finishes on time."

This is true, especially when it comes down to out-of-the-blue issues like backordered hardware. With so many schools in the Los Angeles Community College District undergoing renovations this summer, items like lever-style doorknobs are unavailable for another one to two weeks.

Yet, the Allied Health Building remains an example of the Valley to come. So far, $333 million has been spent on revitalization projects on campus with eight of 14 projects completed this past summer.

The Math Science and Humanities buildings have been renovated, the pool is now ready for use and landscaping on the Fulton Avenue entrance will be complete by November. The land diagonally across from the Media Arts Building was dedicated last month for the new Child Development Center and, according to Jacobsmeyer, when the bungalows are demolished, they'll be gone forever.

The common goal of both Valley's administration and URS now is to keep the forward momentum while maintaining a vision for Valley's future.

Proposition J, which will be on the ballot in November, will grant Valley another $340 million that, among other things, would provide funding for new buildings to promote new green-technology programs.

"There is a tremendous respect [in the community] for schools that give people opportuni-

see *Construction* page 7

ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

READY OR NOT, BUILDING OPENS - Albina De Santiago of the Biology Deptartment holds up a jar of acorn worms in the newly opened Allied Health building.

Carleo Returns for the Love of Valley

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

WELCOME PRESIDENT CARLEO-Valley College's new President Sue Carleo takes a moment out of her busy day to visit the Campus Center and introduce herself to students.

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

Third time may be the charm for new acting president Sue Carleo, who returns to Valley College after being away for 6 years.

The 59-year-old took time out of her busy schedule to get away with her husband of 39 years and jokingly calls herself a child bride.

"My husband and I did take a short trip to Monterey, Calif., but the most exciting part of the summer was moving into this office," Carleo said.

Carleo earned her bachelor's and master's degree at San Diego State University and then earned her Ph. D in Education at UCLA.

Carleo may not yet be well-known to students, but for the faculty she is a familiar face. She once served as the professor and department chair of family and consumer studies in 1979.

"Each time I left with sadness, but with intent to learn skills," Carleo said. "As a vice president in 2002 I had done and learned a great deal to fulfill the president position, so when I heard of the opening, I jumped at the opportunity."

When vice president of academic affairs in 1996, she was a recipient of the Valley College Above and Beyond Award.

"She has always been a pleasant person," said Raul Castillo, Executive Director of LAVC Foundation. "I've seen her deal with students and treated them in a respectful manner."

Carleo took on the position June 1 while working with then President Tyree Wieder who retired June 31. The start of the fall semester was an experience she was keyed up to share.

"On Tuesday, the first day of school having all the students and faculty was the high time," she said. "It was exciting for me to walk through crowds, students rushing to the next class and me elbowing my way through."

Carleo's schedule, which consists of abundant meetings, sometimes leaves her working a 12 - hour shift. Recent topics that are of concern to her are managing the college's budget and new plans to benefit both the campus and its students. Her primary focus is the ongoing construction and is eager to see when students will start using the facilities.

"Although I am not personally out there hammering the nails I can't wait to start seeing projects being completed," Carleo said. "I want to be present when they cut the ribbon."

Madgalena Lopez was Carleo's administrative secretary

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Allied Health Still a Work in Progress

BY KATE SALVO
STAFF WRITER

The new-fangled Allied Health Building opened its doors to students last week, offering cutting-edge research facilities and a window to Valley's future.

The modern three-story building, made of steel and glass, comprises 98,000 square feet of learning space for the Health Sciences, Anthropology, and Science departments. The project, which was funded by Propositions A/AA and 47, is a result of six years of planning and construction.

Valley College Acting President Sue Carleo, who was vice president of Academic Affairs when the plans began, said they wanted to build something that would last 50 years. "The last building was built in the late 60s – Monarch Hall. This was long overdue."

Faculty had a large hand in shaping the project. "We used the creative, dedicated faculty's input to work with architects on design," Carleo said.

Such input lead to several key features, including an outdoor greenhouse, an aviary that will house birds and other animals, a geology shop for polishing and cutting rock sections, and a plot of land reserved for testing drought-resistant plants.

Inside the air-conditioned structure, students will find large, spacious skills laboratories, office space for full-time faculty, and simulated clinical rooms, which are the cornerstone of the nursing program. Simulators use mannequins that respond to injected drugs and can mimic life-threatening emergencies.

Health Sciences Chairperson and Nursing Program Director Mary Cox explained the importance of this new technology. "Students benefit by performing on simulators prior to hospital patient care," she said. "This provides a level of safety. Simulation is the wave of the future."

Cox said that the building was much needed, as lack of equipment and laboratory space in Valley's previous facilities was an accreditation concern. In addition, the increased demand for nurses in

see *Building* page 7

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PALIN GETS A SHOT AT VICE PRESIDENT

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A 48-3 LOSS IN A NIGHT TO FORGET

NEWS

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'Budget'

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from outside resources with a 1 percent increase on taxes.

"Our proposal balances the budget with a mix of billions of dollars in difficult spending cuts and new revenues, similar to those proposed by a previous Republican governor," Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass said. "It is gimmick-free and honest. It closes our budget gap in a straight-forward manner, and eliminates out-year deficits."

The Republican Party voted down the Democrats' proposal 24-15, not giving it the three additional votes it needed for a two-thirds-vote majority, and unveiled their own proposed budget focusing on spending reductions.

Senate Budget Committee Vice-Chair Bob Dutton stated, "Democrats have challenged us to produce a sound budget without borrowing from local governments or tax increases, and today Senate Republicans have responded to the challenge by proposing an honest budget that invests in the priorities of working families, while protecting taxpayers."

"If it continues much longer than you will definitely see dramatic effects- Los Angeles Unified School Teachers won't get paid they will slow down or not come to work," said Vice President of Student Affairs Yasmin Delahousaye. "I could think of a lot of worst case scenarios, lets hope it won't come to pass."

With the Democratic Party the majority in Legislation, the Republicans would need 15 Democratic votes to pass their budget. However, with the official end of the session being Aug. 31, the Senate and Assembly can only meet in emergency sessions up to Nov. 15, by constitutional law. At this point and time no vote on the Republicans' proposal has been set.

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

PEKING ACROBATS WOW HOLLYWOOD-The Peking Acrobats wowed an appreciative audience with demonstrations of their 2,000-year-old art form at the Hollywood Bowl Sept. 7.

'Carleo'

continued from page 1

when she was vice president and now looks forward to working for her once again as her executive assistant.

"She is always very happy and treats everyone equally," Lopez said. "I look forward to working for her and hope she is selected permanent president."

When not reading a handful of mystery books, she also enjoys taking time to attend sporting events, award ceremonies and any other event that gives students recognition for what they have achieved here.

"I don't feel obligated to go," she said. "I go because I enjoy going to the college events. Also to represent and show support."

Carleo will remain in the position until December 20, 2008, unless she is selected as the permanent president.

'Construction'

continued from page 1

ties in life," Veseliza said. "There is a huge market for 'green' jobs, but there isn't any training out there for it."

Jacobsmeyer agrees the revitalization projects are a stepping-stone to a bright future for the school, and Proposition J would bring in the funding needed to create new programs. However, he also thinks that Valley's future lies in the way it markets its current assets to compete with other community colleges like Santa Monica and Pasadena.

"We are one of the greenest community colleges in California," he said, "but everyone is renovating right now. What makes us different? One of the things we also need are professionals whose special focus is on marketing."

This focus on marketing Valley as well as providing students with a quality institution through revitalization projects, is the big picture administration and URS hope students and faculty will visualize in the midst of what looks to be a big mess.

'Science'

continued from page 1

the community requires a robust program geared toward educating quality health care practitioners.

Third-semester nursing student Jackelyn Concepcion described the old facilities. "Everything was crammed, with three teachers sharing an office, and there was limited faculty." Now, she said, there is more room for students to congregate, which creates a feeling of community.

She pointed to the resource lab, noting it has all the nursing books a student could need. "It reflects how good the nursing program is," she said. Concepcion explained that the new simulation rooms excite her, but because they won't be ready until spring, she'll miss the opportunity to use them. She will be entering the workforce by then.

Also looking to the future, Carleo discussed the photovoltaic panels lining the roofs, which provide energy for the building. She said this is part of a campus-wide project to test alternative energy resources, and hopes to install such panels on the rooftops of other school buildings. "We're constantly seeking ways to conserve energy."

The building, however, is still a work in progress, and new issues arise as faculty move in. "The faculty loves the new building and its teaching spaces, but there are many remaining issues that need to be addressed," said Don Gauthier, Academic Senate president and chair of earth science.

Items such as audio/visual connections, fume hoods for Biology and Chemistry labs, minor repairs, and continued commissioning of systems -will be worked out within the next few months. Problems with wiring in the office building have prevented the use of phones and email and caused grumbling from its new inhabitants, but are on the short list of repairs.

"As you can see, a new building requires an enormous amount of detail work to make it complete," Carleo pointed out.

Both Carleo and Cox were quick to point out that the community is to thank for these major improvements. "We couldn't do this without the support of the taxpayers," Carleo said.

Dates to Remember

- **Sept. 12:** Last day to add a class
- **Sept. 15:** Last day to drop a class without incurring fees
- **Sept. 26:** Last day to drop a class without a 'W' (by phone and Internet)
- **Sept. 30:** Last day to petition for Credit/ No Credit
- **Oct. 5:** Last day to file Graduation Petition for Fall 2008
- **Nov. 21:** Last day to drop a class with a 'W'

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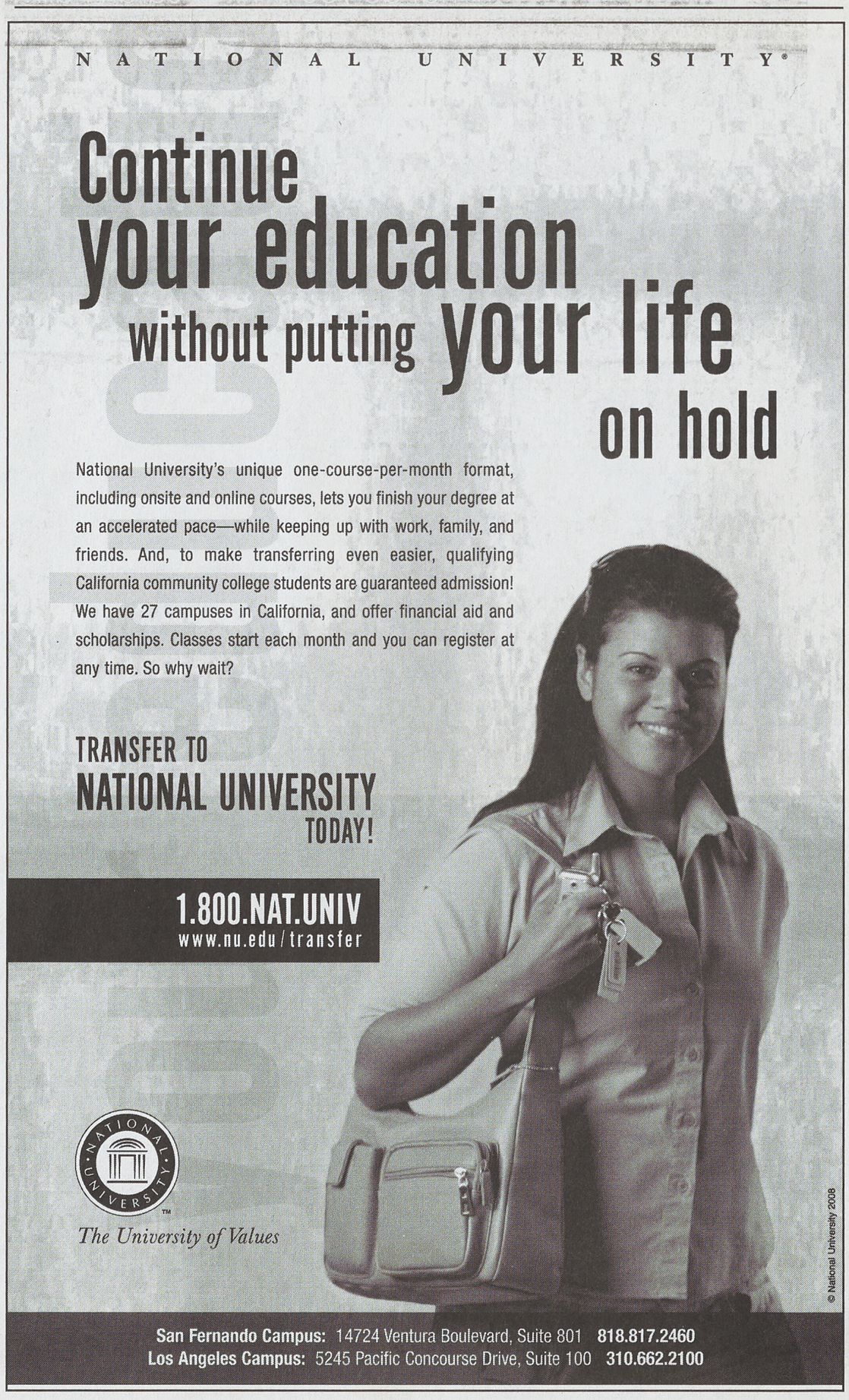
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ONE WAY OR *ANOTHER*

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **SEN. JOHN MCCAIN'S DECISION FOR VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE**

Palin Equals Progess

BY KRISTEN BECKER
NEWS EDITOR

American voters have the chance to make history this November and maybe even change society in the process. While the historic nature of Illinois Sen. Barack Obama's presidential nomination represents a turning point in this country's race relations, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's role as the Republican vice-presidential candidate is proof of how far women in this nation have traveled towards gender equality.

During her first speech as Arizona Sen. John McCain's runningmate, Palin honored the achievements of her fellow female politicians, most notably New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, whose hard-fought campaign for the Democratic nomination brought her closer to occupying the Oval Office than any other woman in history.

"Hillary left 18 million cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling in America," Palin said after being introduced by McCain as his running mate. "But it turns out the women of America aren't finished yet, and we can shatter that glass ceiling once and for all."

In addition to having the potential to make history, the former beauty queen is not just a pretty face. She was mayor of Wasilla, Alaska and was elected governor of the state in 2006. Although she may not have been an elected official for long, the fact remains that she is the only candidate in the race from either party who actually has any executive experience.

While Palin does not hold the distinction of being the first female to run for vice president – former New York Rep. Geraldine Ferraro was Walter Mondale's choice for the 1984 Democratic ticket – many women, even those who will not support McCain in the general election, are excited by the mere possibility of a woman becoming vice president of this country.

Rather than allowing the men in her party do the dirty work, Palin has also proven that despite being a member of the fairer sex, she can hold her own in the increasingly nasty world of politics. Pundits have dubbed her a "bulldog in lipstick" for the way she jumped into the fray during her speech at the Republican National Convention, unafraid to hit back after days of taking a beating in the press.

Regardless of whether John McCain and Sarah Palin win the election this November, the governor of Alaska will join the ranks of the many strong and inspirational women who have made it a little easier for the women of my generation to become anything we want, including the occupant of that illusive office at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Does Celebrity Equal Results ?

BY SARAH KNOWLES
OPINION EDITOR

As Republicans continue to blast Sen. Barack Obama and his campaign for its celebrity status, Sen. John McCain introduced Alaskan Gov. Sarah Palin as his vice presidential nominee pick. After taking stage for her address we learned only one thing and that was that the Republican party now holds an even bigger celebrity monster than Obama; Mrs. Palin herself.

During her first acceptance speech, Palin failed to mention any of America's main concerns, instead choosing to focus on her own family and attacking Obama for his lack of direction. "What exactly is our opponents plan?" said Palin, seemingly oblivious to the fact she had yet to speak of her own party's future strategy. The hypocrisy continued until the end of the speech with a send-off only similar to one seen at the closing stages of a rock concert.

"I didn't hear a single word about health care. I didn't hear a single word about helping people get to college," said Joe Biden, the democratic vice presidential pick in response to the empty, though momentous, speech.

The double standards portrayed has showed no sign of slowing down, as news of Palin's 17-year-old daughter's pregnancy takes hold of the American media. Palin dons the cover of this week's celebrity gossip magazines including OK! and The National Enquirer. US Weekly headlined with "Babies, Lies and Scandal," a title normally associated only with the likes of Britney and Paris – Coincidentally, the same names the Republicans were bashing Obama with in the now-infamous television campaign in July.

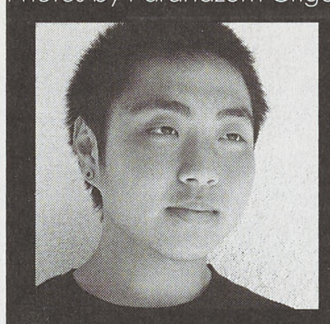
Former beauty queen Palin has been praised by her own party; 89 percent of Republicans speak favorably of McCain's choice, according to the latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey. However, of those who are yet to make a concrete decision, only half feel positive towards the decision.

As time ticks by every vote that can be swayed will count, as the country makes their choice. But now both major parties have their celebrity status, and Mrs. Palin only seems to live up to the beauty queen stereotype more each day - A lack of sub-

ILLUSTRATION / EDUARDO HERRERA / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

CAMPUS VIEW: *What do you think of Sarah Palin?*

Photos by Parandzem Grigoryan



"I don't think that a soccer mom should be vice president."

-Jimmy Yoo

"She's a good change. I think it's always good to make changes. Whatever is going on right now isn't good."

-Stepan Petrosyan

"She's there to sway women voters. America is smarter than that. She's not really qualified."

-David Mittleman

Budget Jockeying is Irresponsible

BY JOE LA FLEUR
STAFF WRITER

Today, we live in a desperate society where a word as simple as "change" is capable of sparking a nation into a state of consciousness that has not been seen since the 60s. Many have found hope in the Democratic candidate for president, Sen. Barack Obama, who runs on a platform that promises to unite this nation. Despite this, our country is being divided by party politics and in California, those same party politics are preventing the State Legislature from agreeing on a budget.

As of July 1, 2008, California has been operating without a spending plan for the new fiscal year. For two months, our state hospitals have not been receiving the money they need to keep operating and the reason behind this is Republicans and Democrats cannot reach a two-thirds majority agreement on a proper budget plan for California.

We, as citizens of California, are now in unfamiliar territory. Not once has the California State Legislature entered the month of September without a budget. The past record for budget delay in this state was set on Aug. 31, 2002, under then-Gov. Gray Davis. That day came and went this year and the most important item on the legislative agenda - revise the state budget for the new fiscal year - had not been resolved.

We know who is to blame for this negligence but the more important question is what does this mean for the state? The answer is simple, the solution is not and the effects are potentially crippling.

While politicians in Sacramento reject budget plan after budget plan, hospitals, community colleges, day-care centers and other state-funded facilities go without the money they need to operate. Amparo Ortiz, administrator of Casa Healthcare, a provider of care for developmentally disabled children said, "We had to suspend our payroll for the last week of August to all our staff and providers."

"There is no victory for anybody when we… come into Monday and have no budget," said Mike Villines, Leader of the assembly's Republicans. "I don't think Californians are sympathetic."

One would think that with that knowledge, politicians would be more willing to agree on one plan, yet they continue to play a seemingly endless game of tug-o-war while our state – already $15.2 billion in debt according to the Sacramento Bee – continues to lose money. Yet, while politicians face no penalties for their inability to create a budget, it is the people of this state who suffer.

According to State Controller John Chiang, by the end of September, $12 billion in payments will not have been made to any state run facilitie13

"We compromised more than we thought prudent," said Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (D-Oakland). "We are done."

While the politicians fight amongst themselves and their idea of what Californians want, they are harming the same people they were sworn in to protect. These men and women are officials we elected to lead our state and they serve us by acting immature, as they are unwilling to budge on certain issues because they are simply tired of the others' antics. These politicians need to remember that the well being of their state and its citizens is far more important than the name of their party.

Have Focus, an Election is no Circus

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A man addresses a small crowd, perhaps in a city park or on the steps of a building. Television cameras walk through the throng of people, capturing the words delivered by the individual behind the lectern. Oration complete, he walks through the crowd and stops to cuddle an infant, newsmen jumping forward to get the obligatory "kissing the baby" shot. This kind of scene is in sharp contrast to the flashing lights and pomp of the national conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. It's official America; you take the political cake when it comes to the circus of picking a president.

Election season in my home country of Australia is a quiet process compared to the United States. The election is called, advertisements appear on TV about each party and the candidates hit the campaign trail. The most exciting events our potential leaders appear at during those months are photo calls and press conferences in key towns around the nation.

We vote, find out the winner, lament if our preferred candidate did not win, and then get on with it. No muss, no fuss, no distractions.

It's a sad state of affairs when party conventions become entertainment in order to get people motivated to vote. An American should want to vote because a presidential candidate is going to make the country better, not because a party flashed their cash, or had the right celebrity appear at their convention. An article written by the BBC described the conventions as a 'piece of performance art', where 'the main thing is to see the animals in the ring, dancing, trotting and performing.' What an apt description of the past two weeks.

Australia and the United States have different kinds of political process, but what I have seen during these two conventions and over the whole candidate race is just ridiculous. Ultimately, it seems like a massive waste of funds that could be better spent on helping the nation once a candidate takes office.

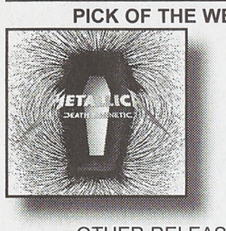
America, you need to step back and look at your brand of politics. The rest of the world accepts that you are selecting the next leader of the free world. But you are starting to lose our respect, because all we see is indulgence and a lack of focus on the task at hand. Don't concentrate on which party can fill a stadium to its rafters, set your minds to getting this country back on track.

PHOTOILLUSTRATION / PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



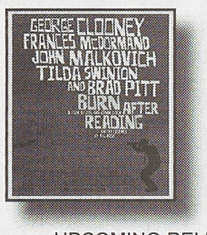
METALLICA, *DEATH MAGNETIC*

OTHER RELEASES:

Jessica Simpson, *Do You Know*
LL Cool J, *Exit 13*
Gym Class Heroes, *The Quilt*
Joan Osborne, *Little Wild One*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



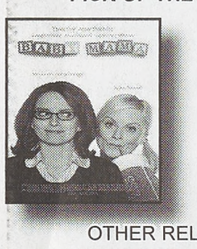
BURN AFTER READING

UPCOMING RELEASES:

Righteous Kill,*Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino*
The Women, Meg Ryan, Annette Benning
Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



BABY MAMA
Tina Fey, Amy Poehler

OTHER RELEASES:

The Forbidden Kingdom
The Fall
The Promotion
Transformers (in Blu-Ray)

CONCERT

PICK OF THE WEEK:

MGMT
The Music @ The Fonda

OTHER PERFORMANCES:

Unwritten Law @ HOB Anaheim
Vampire Weekend @ The Wiltern
The Raconters @ The Greek Theatre

DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

Beached Whale
How to create a Hi-Def speaker
Text Message Breakup
How to Irrigate Your Nasal Passage

DON'T FORGET TO TiVo

Project Runway
I Love Money
Vh1's Seven Ages of Rock
The Rachel Maddow Show

LAVC EVENTS

Wednesday, September 10

Walk-in Registration for Fall 2008 @ 8 a.m.-8 p.m. (Campus Center, 1st Floor) - Contact: Admissions (818) 947-2553

Thursday, September 11

Walk-in Registration for Fall 2008 @ 8 a.m.-8 p.m. (Campus Center, 1st Floor) - Contact: Admissions (818) 947-2553

Parent & Baby Session (for Toddlers) @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Bungalow 49); Free – Contact: Family Resource Center (818) 778-5518 weislekm@lavc.edu

Friday, September 12

Walk-in Registration for Fall 2008 @ 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (Campus Center, 1st Floor) - Contact: Admissions (818) 947-2553

Parent & Baby Session (for Infants) @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Bungalow 49); Free – Contact: Family Resource Center (818) 778-5518 weislekm@lavc.edu

Saturday, September 13

Walk-in Registration for Fall 2008 @ 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Campus Center, 1st Floor) - Contact: Admissions (818) 947-2553

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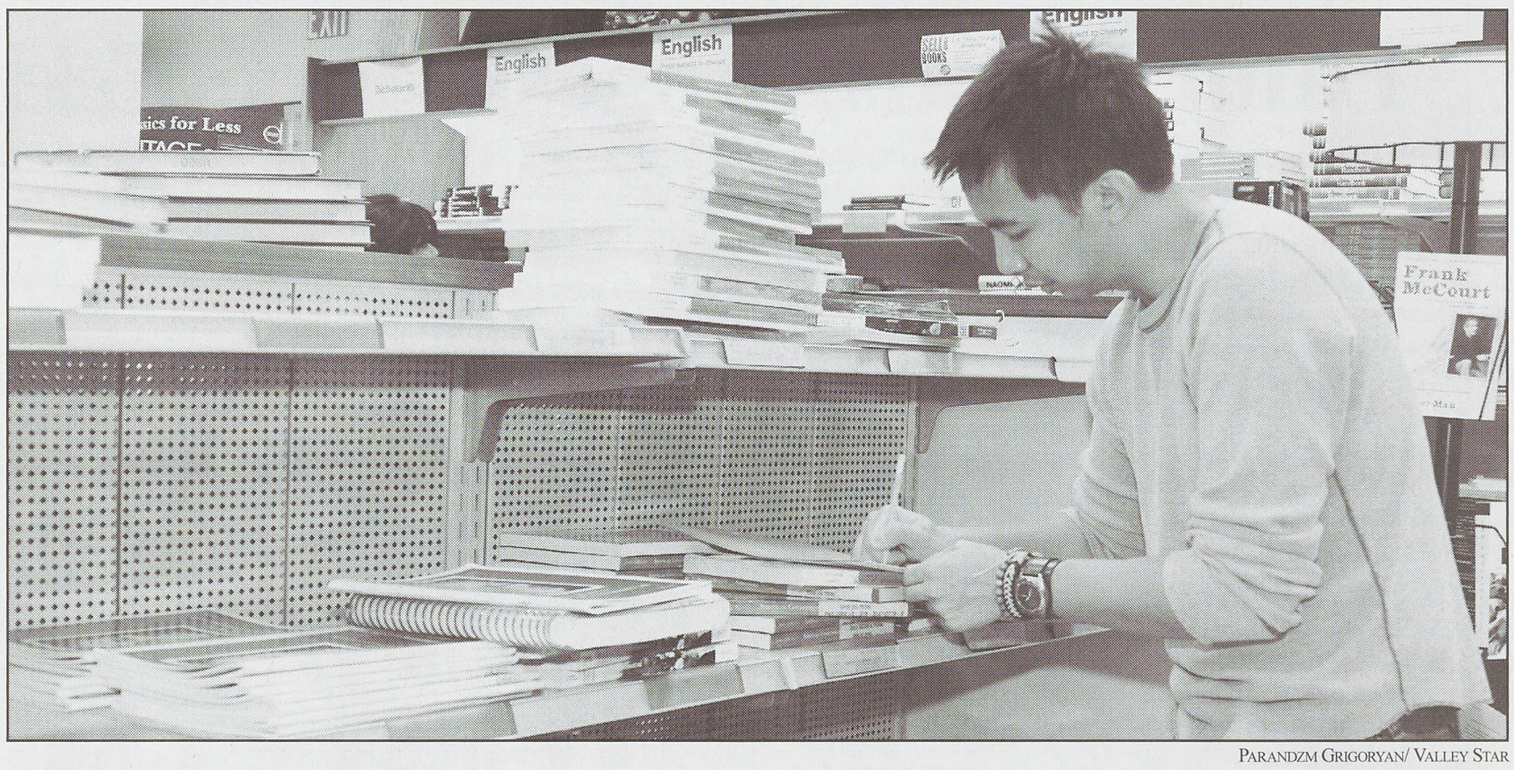
GRACIELA SALGADO
STAFF WRITER



PARANDZM GRIGORYAN/ VALLEY STAR

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT ONE- Valley College student Freddie Yumul majoring Respiratory therapy surches for better prices on text books at Valley College Bookstore

Textbooks have become a method for a typical low-income college student to go practically bankrupt; so to get the best deals available is priceless.

The options to purchase your books range from the Valley College and Off-Campus bookstores to the Associated Student Union textbook boards and web sites such as half.com. What you have to look for are the price and return policy differences, which can be helpful when choosing where to buy this semester's books

"The more options the better because the prices of the books are so high! Students don't make that much money to be paying so much," said photojournalism major Van Trieu.

The LAVC Bookstore is arguably the first source that most students explore. The convenience of its location offers all students the opportunity to buy books in between classes.

"It is affiliated to the school district, so all the money goes back to the campus," said Faith Brewer, a cashier at the bookstore.

In addition to this, the return policy is beneficial to students because it is based on the school schedule, according to Brewer.

Generally, science and math books win the title for most expensive, according to sources from the bookstores. The prices can vary from $40 to $300 depending on how advanced the subject is. This is when the option of buying used books comes extremely handy.

"It is easier to find used books in the ASU textbook boards for better prices than the bookstores," Josh Bovill, ASU secretary said.

These boards, located on the Campus Center building are packed with the postings of students selling books that they no longer need. Thus, it gives the sellers the opportunity to gain a profit, and the buyers the chance to receive a better price. Everybody wins.

"The more options the better because the prices of the books are so high"

-Van Trieu
Photojournalism Major

The Off-Campus Bookstore, located on the corner of Fulton Avenue and Burbank Boulevard, is another alternative. It guarantees five to 10 percent cheaper prices than the LAVC bookstore.

"You don't have to wait so much in line and we are much cheaper," said Kay Jeong, supervisor of the bookstore and the owner's brother.

In addition to offering availability on different colleges' books, the store has expanded to buying and selling books for the general public. You can even place special orders as a student or instructor just like with our campus bookstore.

"We don't only want to offer great prices, but also the best customer service by creating personal relationships with all our clients," the manager Grace Eo said.

When it came down to it, the prices of Half.com were incomparable, with the most expensive science book I found for only $104. The only downside to the web site is the uncertainty of the date your book will be delivered.

All these alternatives can be beneficial to your wallet. Choose wisely and you may save enough money for extra gas.

Movie Review

COURTESY OF LIONSGATE FILMS

"Bangkok" Not So Dangerous

SHARON HARDWICK
STAFF WRITER

The only thing dangerous about Nicolas Cage in "Bangkok Dangerous" is his black, Gene Simmons hairstyle. What is entertaining about the movie, which at an hour and fifty minutes is an hour and forty-five minutes too long, is imagining a broody Cage in leather and black-and-white face paint sticking his tongue out at the audience before assassinating his victims.

The Pang brothers, most known in the States for their work on "The Eye," directed this remake of their 1999 Thai movie of the same name.

The 1999 "Bangkok Dangerous" is a gritty portrayal of Thailand's dodgy underbelly. Criminals are criminals. Strippers are dirty. A deaf-mute, who was bullied as a child, grows up to be a hit man. And the Pang brothers don't use a lot of dialogue for a full-length movie. Instead, the audience is given credit for being able to read between the lines. The layers of this movie are thin, but they are there. The 2008 remake, however, leaves all the good bits of the original out, and kills the film with just a skeleton of the screenplay.

First, there's Nicolas Cage who plays Joe, the hit man. Joe is a loner, for-hire gunman who goes anywhere to kill anyone, no questions asked. Anyone who's watched Cage in movies like Matchstick Men or Leaving Las Vegas knows he can act. Except nowadays, it seems Cage is being hired for his droopy mouth and ability to furrow his brow into pensive knots. He's an obvious choice for a moody hit man, except his moodiness is shallow. Cage could have gone all out and portrayed Joe as a miserable old git, except Joe never goes that far and, predictably, develops a conscience. What's dangerous about that? I think we're all just craving a hit man with a little pathology. I, for one, am tired of the sorrys.

Next, Joe narrates almost every step of the entire movie leaving the audience feeling intellectually impotent. I mean, I'm not a hit man, but I think it'd be safe for me to say that rule #1 of being a professional assassin would be: "never leave a trace." In that spirit, these three words should never be said out loud, ever. The Pang brothers should have kept their remake as quiet as the original.

Lastly, well, there's just the whole movie. Kong (Shahkrit Yamnarm), Joe's protégé/errand boy, forms an unbelievable attachment to Joe that borders on Stockholm syndrome. Joe, as his conscience swoons, also forms a romantic attachment to a deaf-mute pharmacist (Charlie Yeung) who is just too pretty to be dating someone with such bad hair. The strippers are cute and healthy looking and I never figured out exactly why the mob-heads, which Hollywood likes to portray as content family men, wanted so many people dead.

Joe says in the beginning, is "corrupt, dirty and dense." If only the Pang brothers had decided to show us what this meant instead of telling us what we would never see.

Talent Show Offers Free Laughs

JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

The idea of a faculty variety show could spark a few thoughts in the minds of Valley College students. One of them being your anthropology teacher performing their version of M.I.A.'s, "Paper Planes." Unfortunately (or fortunately), this will not be the case.

Each semester, the Music Department has a series of weekly or bi-weekly concerts that are free to Los Angeles Valley College students. Every semester the series kicks off with a showcase consisting predominantly of faculty and a small portion of students, as well as alumni, of the music department. The show, "Music Department Presents Faculty Variety Show," is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall.

Dr. Christian Nova, a music professor at Valley, will be organizing this semester's concert series, a job he has taken upon himself since he began teaching here four years ago. Nova is enthusiastic about the idea of the concert series and the opportunity it gives for students to see a variety of live music without charge.

"The idea behind the series," said Nova, "is to provide free concerts for students and the community at large."

This provides an opportunity for community members as well as students who are not enrolled in music classes to gain exposure to a variety of music styles that they would otherwise not have the opportunity to hear.

"We provide a wide mix of styles like classical, jazz, instrumental and vocal," Nova explained.

The "Faculty Variety Show" has been a regular event at Valley since before Nova took over the responsibilities four years ago and, "every year," Nova said, "there is full attendance."

Few people realize the number of talented musicians that compose the faculty of the Valley College music department. In addition to providing an opportunity for students to hear their professors, this is an outlet for those professors to display their talents and set an example for their students of what they can achieve.

Although the lineup for the show is not yet set, Nova expects there to be seven to eight faculty members from the Music Department, one student choir and Valley alumni.

"The Free Wednesday Concert Series at LAVC (as well as all of the other concerts) is an invaluable resource right here on the LAVC campus, providing professional-level concerts of a wide variety of musical styles," said Nova. "Students, Faculty and Administration can experience the joy and excitement of live musical events and support the LAVC Music Department."

For a complete listing of concerts go to, www.lavc.edu and follow the "Community Event" link. For any questions, emails can be sent to, "concerts@lavc.edu."

Stop, Look and Listen

SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

Students at Valley College have an opportunity to fulfill themselves by helping people in need.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24- year-olds and every 16.1 minutes a person has killed themselves in the United States, according to the American Association Of Suicidology.

"It concerns me," said Valley student Abraham Velasco. "The fact that there are people committing suicide makes me wonder if life could really be that bad."

The Suicide Prevention Center in West Los Angeles is best known for the 24-hour crisis line. The line receives over 22, 000 calls each year and is in need of volunteers. The volunteers participate in helping the crisis line, the Adolescent Suicide Prevention Project, the Speakers Bureau and Survivors After Suicide Program.

"It's really sad, yet amazing," said student Tami Green. "There is so many good things that people don't see. There are positive sides to everything."

Many people show signs of depression, guilt, isolation, anger, and even disbelief when they lose someone. The Survivors After Suicide program gives them support and the opportunity to talk to others who have had the same experience

Valley College student, Valerie, who did not wish for her full name to be printed, has had a family member who took his own life. He was married with three kids and his wife wanted a divorce, so he decided to end his life on his 50th birthday.

Additional content online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

PLAYING KEEP AWAY - Valley College Sophomore Anthony Capp (right) keeps the ball away from Fullerton's John Arnold in Valley's 7-6 win last Sept. 2. The victory places brings their season record 2-1.

Men Fight for Water Win

BY JONATHAN GIBBY
PHOTO EDITOR

The Monarch men's water polo team dove head first into their season with a home game win against Fullerton last Tuesday. In a game that started out with a 0-2 score at the end of the first quarter, the Monarch's proved their ability to win an up hill battle with a victory over Fullerton 7-6.

After finishing the first quarter scoreless and being outplayed by Fullerton, the Monarchs came out determined to get back in the game, scoring two goals in the first minutes of the second quarter. Valley's fierce comeback was short lived when Fullerton answered almost immediately with two quick goals of its own.

Valley secured its first lead deep in the third quarter and kept up a pace that would eventuality lead them to victory.

Considering that Valley was on the defense for the majority of time, Coach Jim McMillan's view of the win was simple, "our goalie saved us." Fullerton's goalkeeper seemed almost bored due to the lack of action on his side of the pool. He could be seen resting his head on the back of the net soaking in the sun, while Valley's goalie Adrian Marcinkowshi was assaulted by shot after shot on the net.

Fullerton freshman John Arnold attributed the close loss to flaws in their attack, saying that "Our weakness was our drives."

Coach McMillan is well aware of his teams strengths and weaknesses.

"We need to improve in every aspect of the game. The first game of the season allows us to see where we need to improve. We need to work hard and get better," Said McMillan.

The Monarchs finished last weekends Golden West Tournament with a 2-1 win against Santa Ana and a 13-9 loss against Grossmont, bringing their season record to 2-1. The Monarch's next home game is on Sept. 11 against El Camino College, before they take to the road for the Mt. SAC Tournament on Sept. 12-13.

The Valley women also play El Camino Sept. 11, following a two-week break after a 19-3 win over Cypress College.

Football Squad Sacked

BY H. GORE
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College 2008 football season got off to a disappointing start literally and figuratively as the Monarchs were defeated at home 48-3 by the Ventura Pirates.

Ventura returned the opening kickoff to the Valley 40-yard line, and later scored a touchdown on the drive with a 1-yard run by Pirates' quarterback Lee Mondol. The Pirates added a 59-yard touchdown later in the quarter and led 14-0 after the first. The poor showing continued for Valley in the second quarter and they trailed 27-3 at the half.

Ventura Pirates head coach Jon Mack kept his team fired up during halftime by reminding them about last year's game against the Monarchs.

"Last year we came out here and played real well in the first half and they came out and got after us in the second half so we used last season as motivation not to let up," said Mack.

The third quarter saw Ventura score on pass plays of 33 and 61 yards while the Monarchs struggled to get anything going on offense. LAVC rotated two freshmen quarterbacks, Bret Visciglia and Alan Ferguson, but both were ineffective. Valley College players could be heard asking for quarterback Steve Rimmer to be given a shot although the coaching staff weren't entertaining the thought.

Offensive Coordinator for Valley, Dameon Porter, tried to remain positive after the big loss.

"We're a young football team, we're starting nine freshmen and we were going against one of the tougher teams around," said Porter. "If you can take a positive from a loss like this it's that we got to find out about some of our players, good and bad."

Freshman wide receiver Jeremy Monegan blames the loss on the players.

"Last year we came out here and played real well in the first half and they came out and got us...we used last season as motivation not to let up."

- Ventura Head Coach Jon Mack

"We could've played harder. We didn't come out and play. We prepared hard, we were working our asses off, but we're a young team and nobody came out and played," said Monegan.

The Monarchs will face another tough task this Saturday when they host Bakersfield.

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

HARD CHARGING - Monarch running back Mike Bush runs through Ventura Pirate defenders during the final seconds of the game. Student Juan Rivera came to watch his former teammates play, and said of the 45-point drubbing, "I give them a "D" for the game."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

MONARCHS FIGHT FOR CONTROL

Valley College forward, Noelle Arias (above), struggles for control of the ball early in the first half on Saturday's game against William Jessup University at The Master's College.

Valley's inexperience against a team of mostly juniors and seniors ultimately resulted in 8-0 loss.

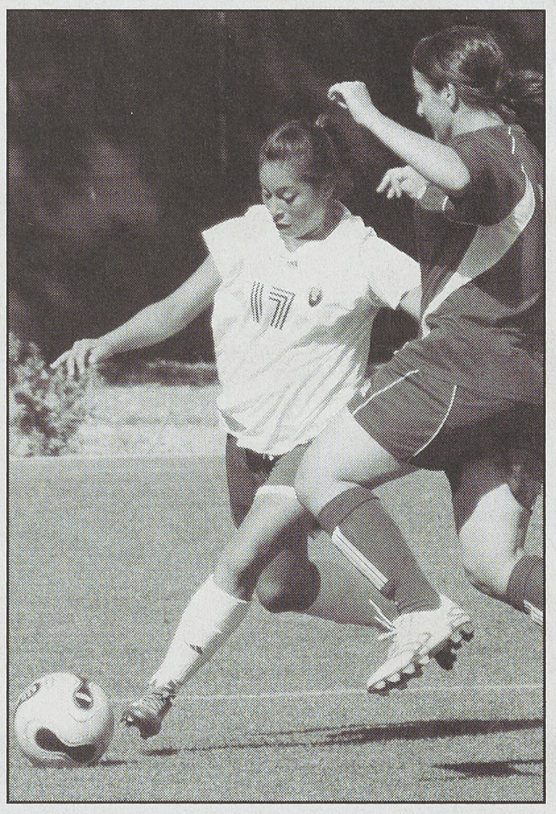
Valley hits the road for the next two games, playing against Taft on Sept. 16 and Ventura College on Sept. 19. The Monarchs return home Sept. 23 to play Pasadena.

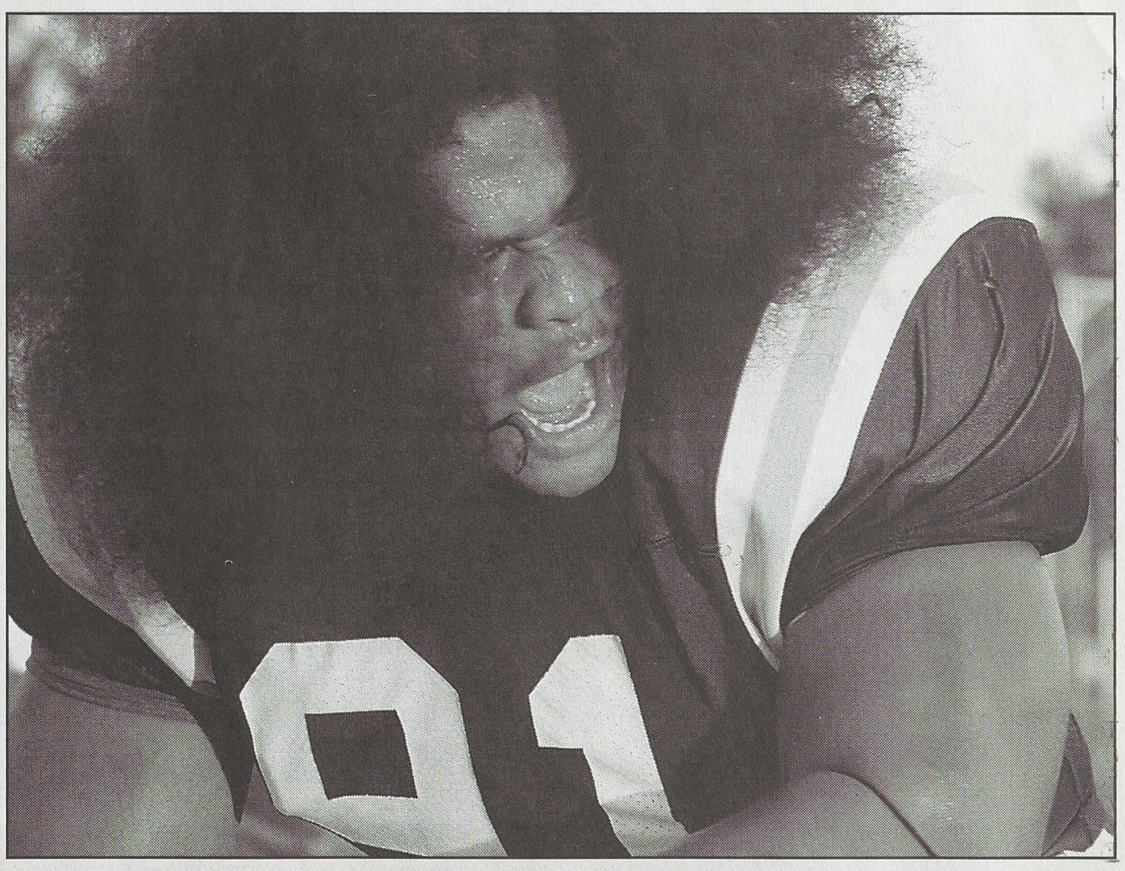
9.26 (Fri) vs West Los Angeles

9.30 (Tue) vs Pierce College

10.3 (Fri) @ College of the Canyons

10.7 (Tues) @ Bakersfield





PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

INSPIRATION - Valley College Football player Kasimili Uitalia gets the crowd and himself pumped up before last Saturday's game.

THE NEXT 5

FALL 2008 SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S
- 9.11 (Thurs) vs El Camino 4:00 p.m.
- 9.13 (Sat) @ El Camino Mini Tournament TBA
- 9.16 (Tue) vs Santa Ana 4.15 p.m.
- 9.19-20 (Fri and Sat) @ Mt. SAC Tournament TBA
- 9.24 (Wed) vs Cuesta College @ Ventura 3:00 p.m.

MEN'S
- 9.11 (Thurs) vs El Camino 3:00 p.m.
- 9.12-13 (Fri and Sat) @ Mt. SAC Tournament TBA
- 9.16 (Tue) vs Santa Ana 3:00 p.m.
- 9.19 (Fri) vs Cerritos 3:00 p.m.
- 9.24 (Wed) @ Cuesta 4.15 p.m.

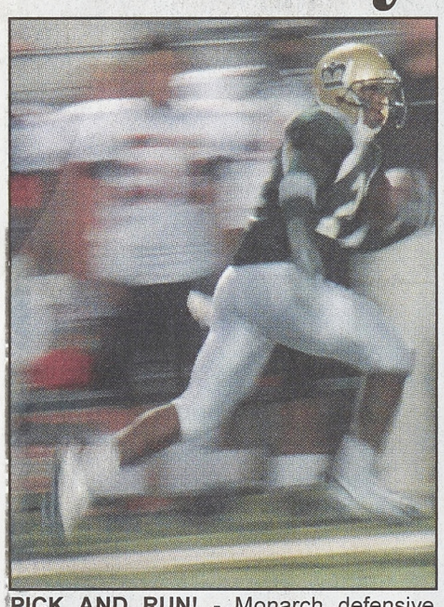
GALLERY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

PRE GAME RITUAL-The Monarch football team huddle tight and psych up for its battle against the power house Ventura Pirates at Monarch Stadium Saturday night.

Saturday Night Lights

SCOTT MITCHELL
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

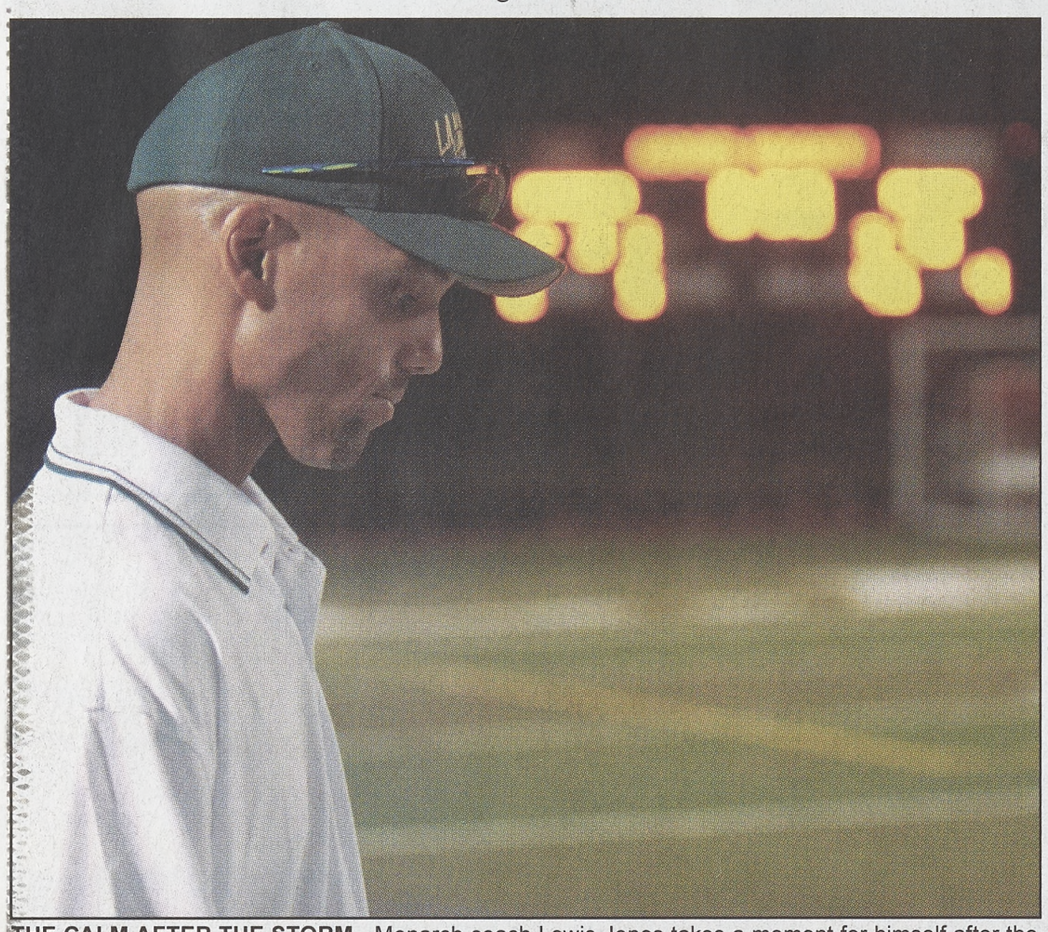


PICK AND RUN! - Monarch defensive back Rodney Glass streaks down the sideline after intercepting a pass against the Ventura Pirates.

By nature, football is a rough contact sport. Athletes have to be in top physical shape in order to perform well and to avoid and rebound from injuries.

Mental toughness, football knowledge, and the right mind set are keys to success. Players need to know how to play their positions and how to play as a team. Knowing the playbook, playing with emotion, controlling emotion, staying focused, reacting to the un-expected, performing under pressure, and following direction are part of the game.

The 2008 Monarch football season will provide a proving ground for the players and the coaching staff. With each loss, there are lessons to be learned. With each win, there will be momentum to build upon. We celebrate the fighting spirit and cherish the bonds and memories that will resonate long after the season is over.



THE CALM AFTER THE STORM - Monarch coach Lewis Jones takes a moment for himself after the 48 to 3 loss to Ventura at home Saturday night. The coaching staff went out of their way to encourage and motivate the team throughout the game.

KEEP FIGHTING - Despite the Monarchs low score, the game continued until the last down.

WARRIOR SPIRIT - Down by 45 points with minutes left to play in the game, the Monarch defensive squad digs deep for one last goal-line stance.